

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A monoclonal antibody which:

(1) reacts specifically with a human apolipoprotein A-I occurring in HDL which contains no human apolipoprotein A-II and has a molecular weight of 150,000 Da or less; and

(2) which reacts specifically with a human apolipoprotein A-I not binding to a lipid, but which does not react with (a) HDL containing apoA-II, (b) ~~VLDL~~ VLDL, (c) LDL, or (d) HDL₂,

(3) wherein the reactivity of said monoclonal antibody to blood plasma incubated at 37°C for two hours is lower compared to its reactivity to unheated blood plasma.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The monoclonal antibody of Claim 9 which is produced by hybridoma cell line 55201 deposited as FERM BP-6938.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The antibody of Claim 9 which has been labeled.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The antibody of Claim 9 which has been labeled with biotin, peroxidase, ~~alkaline peroxidase~~ alkaline phosphatase, glucoamylase or β -galactosidase.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The antibody of Claim 9 which has been labeled with ^{125}I , ^{131}I or tritium.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A solid support to which the antibody of Claim 9 has been attached.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A composition comprising the monoclonal antibody of Claim 9 and a buffer or diluent.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A hybridoma cell line which produces the monoclonal antibody of Claim 9.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): Hybridoma cell line 55201 deposited as FERM BP-6938.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): An immunoassay for apoA-1 comprising:
contacting the monoclonal antibody of Claim 9 with a sample suspected of containing apoA-I for a time and under conditions suitable for binding of said antibody to apoA-I,
determining binding between said antibody and apoA-I, and
relating the binding to the presence or amount of said apoA-I in said sample.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The immunoassay of Claim 18 which is a RIA.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The immunoassay of Claim 18 which is an EIA.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The immunoassay of Claim ~~17~~ 18, wherein binding of said antibody to apoA-I is determined before and after heating the sample and the amount of reduction or percentage reduction in binding between the sample before heating and the sample after heating is determined.